

Hoover Dam

Hoover Dam, rising 221 m (726 ft) above the bed of the Colorado River between Nevada and Arizona, was the world's tallest DAM at the time of its completion in 1936, and it still ranks among the largest. (Called Boulder Dam from 1933, it was renamed for the ex-president in 1947.) During its 5-year construction, many significant innovations in large-dam-building techniques were first attempted. Hoover is a gravity-arch dam and a multipurpose structure that provides flood control, hydroelectric power, and drinking and irrigation water to regions as far away as southern California. Its 185-km-long (115-m) reservoir, Lake Mead, is a popular recreation area, and the dam itself attracts many tourists.

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Bibliography: Boulder Dam Service Bureau, *The Story of the Hoover Dam* (1985); Stevens, J.E., *Hoover Dam* (1988).